<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

In re the application of:
Andrew Schmitz

Docket: SD-209A

Serial Number: 10/085,161

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: March 1, 2002

Examiner: E. Johnson

For: ETHYLENE OXIDE CATALYST CARRIER PREPARATION

<u>NOTICE: THIS APPLICATION IS UNDER FINAL REJECTION</u>

<u>FAX COVER SHEET</u>

TO: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DATE: March 28, 2005

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EXAMINER : E. Johnson
GROUP   : 1754

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2005, please consider the following remarks:

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Takada in view of Jin. The examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to combine these references to produce the presently claimed invention. Applicants again urge that this is not the case.

The present claims relate to a process for preparing a catalyst for the production of ethylene oxide. In this process where silver is to be supported on an alumina carrier, the carrier is subjected to aqua-thermal treatment prior to deposition of silver. The aqua-thermal treatment comprises a *sequential* series of *at least two carrier washings with intermediate carrier calcination at a temperature above 200°C*. This particular combination of steps is not shown or suggested in the applied art, and the examples of the application show the unexpected